WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A system for migrating a set of software from a first computer to a second computer
2   comprising a data storage appliance,
3   wherein the data storage appliance is connectable to the first computer,
4   wherein the data storage appliance contains an application suitable to copy the set of
5   software from the first computer onto the data storage appliance, and
6   wherein the data storage appliance is connectable to the second computer, and
7   wherein the application is also suitable to copy the set of software from the data storage
8   appliance to the second computer.

1   2.   The system of claim 1 wherein the data storage appliance is connectable to the first
2   computer via a USB port.

1   3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the data storage appliance is connectable to the first
2   computer via a network.

1   4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the application is also suitable to operate without being
2   installed on the hard drive of the first computer or the hard drive of the second computer.

1   5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the application is further suitable to modify the set of
2   software while it is on the data storage appliance and before such set of software is
3   copied to the second computer.

1   6.   The system of claim 3 wherein such modification comprises a virus scan of the set of
2   software.

1   7.   The system of claim 3 wherein such modification comprises an addition to the set of
2   software.

1   8.   The system of claim 7 wherein such addition comprises a set of drivers particular to the
2   operation of the set of software in the environment of the second computer.

25

1   9.   The system of claim 3 wherein such modification comprises modifying the order of the
2   members of the set of software.

1   10.   The system of claim 1 wherein the application is further suitable to disable the set of
2   software on the first computer.

1   11.   A removable computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable
2   instructions for performing the steps comprising:
3   verifying authorization to copy system files onto a destination computer;
4   copying software to the destination computer;
5   configuring the software for operation on the destination computer.

1   12.   The removable computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the software copied
2   resides on the removable computer-readable medium.

1   13.   The removable computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the software copied
2   resides on a medium connected to the computer via a network.

1   14.   The removable computer-readable medium of claim 11 further having stored thereon a
2   set of software files suitable for execution upon a destination computer.

1   15.   The removable computer-readable medium of claim 11 having stored thereon computer-
2   executable instructions, wherein the computer-executable instructions are configured so
3   as to execute automatically upon the medium's insertion into the destination computer.

1   16.   The removable computer-readable medium of claim 11 having stored thereon computer-
2   executable instructions for performing the steps further comprising:
3   installing an operating system onto the computer from the medium; and
4   rebooting the computer.

1   17.   A method for distributing an operating system software to a destination computer

2   comprising the steps of:

3   connecting to the destination computer an appliance containing computer-readable

4   medium;

5   executing a program stored on said medium without installation of such program on the

6   destination computer;

7   copying the operating system software from a data set to the destination computer; and

8   copying a registry file to the destination computer.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

2   copying a supplemental registry file to the destination computer; and

3   adding the supplemental registry file to the registry file,

4   wherein the supplemental registry file contains configuration information relating to an

5   application installed on the destination computer.

1   19.   The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

2   copying a supplemental registry instruction file to the destination computer; and

3   executing the instructions in the supplemental registry instruction file to remove entries

4   from the registry file.

5   wherein the supplemental registry instruction file contains instructions to remove

6   configuration information relating to an application not installed on the

7   destination computer.

1   20.   The method of claim 17 wherein the operating system is a Windows-based operating

2   system.

1   21.   The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

2   copying an application to the destination computer; and

3   executing the installation program for the application, wherein the installation program

4   updates the registry file with entries appropriate to the application.

28

1   22.   The method of claim 17 wherein the data set is accessed via a network.

1   23.   The method of claim 22 wherein the data set contains a storage address file which

2   specifies the files comprising the operating system software.